

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 /112 W

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R 271220Z DEC 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4838

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG IS UN

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS DECEMBER 27

REF: CAIRO 3627

1. PEACE CONFERENCE. DECEMBER 27 PRESS GIVES SECONDARY SPACE

TO MEETING OF EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES ON DECEMBER 26. REPORTING IS GENERALLY STRAIGHT, AND GIVES DETAILS FROM WIRE SERVICES OF MEETINGS, PARTICIPANTS, ETC. AHRAH IN SPECIAL REPORT UNDERSCORES STATEMENT MADE BY FAHMY IN GENEVA DECEMBER 26 THAT:

(A) EGYPT IS PARTICIPATING IN THIS STAGE OF CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES OF ITS OWN FREE WILL, BUT WILL NOT UNILATERALLY SEEK A SOLUTION; AND THAT, MOREOVER, IT HOPES " PALESTINE" WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE'S COMING STAGE;

(B) "EGYPT WILL NOT DISCUSS ANY POLITICAL QUESTIONS  
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IN SYRIA'S ABSENCE."

EDITORIALS CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE EGYPT'S NEED TO BE ON THE ALERT THROUGHOUT CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS, AND PREPARED MILITARILY FOR ANY ISRAELI TRICKERY. MUSA SABRI IN FRONT-PAGE AKHBAR ARTICLE FOCUSES SPECIAL CRITICISM ON (UNNAMED) DOUBTERS IN ARAB RANKS WHO CLAIM TO SEE NO USE IN EGYPT'S ATTENDING PEACE CONFERENCE. SABRI ALSO MAKES POINT OF ISRAEL'S "DILEMMA" IN BEING FORCED TO NEGOTIATE WITH EGYPT FROM A POSITION OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY WEAKNESS.

2. ANOTHER SUBJECT PROMINENTLY PLAYED BY CAIRO PRESS (AND IS AHAM'S HEADLINE STORY) IS REMARKS MADE BY WAR MINISTER ISMAIL DECEMBER 26 TO GROUP OF VISITING EGYPTIAN EMIGRANTS. ISMAIL MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) ISRAELI FORCE ON WEST BANK OF CANAL IS SURROUNDED FROM ALL SIDES BY EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES AND IS THEREFORE IN A "CRITICAL POSITION;"

(B) ISRAEL'S OBJECTIVE IN WEST BANK OPERATION WAS PSYCHOLOGICAL; IDF HAS ONLY ONE BRIDGEHEAD, ITS SUPPLY ROUTES ARE EXTENDED AND IDF FORCES ARE UNDER EGYPTIAN DIRECT FIRE, FROM WHICH ISRAELIS ARE SUFFERING HEAVY LOSSES;

(C) BOTH SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES STAND READY TODAY "IN COMPLETE COORDINATION" TO COMPLETE TASK OF LIBERATION;

(D) EGYPTIAN COMMAND INCLUDES MOROCCAN, TUNISIAN, ALGERIAN AND KUWAITI FORCES. THESE ARE SYMBOLIC, BUT REFLECT CONCERTED ARAB ACTION UNDER UNIFIED COMMAND.

(E) ISRAELI PRESENCE AT SHARM EL SHEIK HAS NOT SAVED EILAT FROM PARALYSIS; "WE HAVE PREVENTED ANY SHIP FROM REACHING (EILAT) FROM BAB EL MANDAB."

3. COMMENT: ISMAIL'S REMARKS INCLUDE NO NEW INFORMATION, AND REFLECT A POSITION WHICH HE HAS GIVEN PUBLICLY FOR MANY WEEKS (SEE CAIRO 3627 REGARDING HIS TALK TO CODEL STRATTON ON NOVEMBER 22). THEY ARE, NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIAL PROMINENCE IN DECEMBER 27 PRESS AND SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT EGYPTIAN POLICY OF SEEKING RESOLUTION TO CONFLICT IN GENEVA CONFERENCE IS BACKED BY MILITARY STEADFASTNESS.  
SMITH

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## Message Attributes

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